

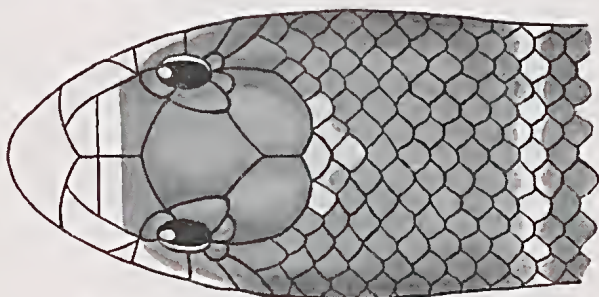
HERPETOLOGICAL MISCELLANEA*

By L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth.

III.—A NEW BURROWING SNAKE FROM NORTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Rhynchoelaps approximans sp. nov.

Snout prominent, shovel-shaped, the edges sharp. Rostral broader than deep, its upper portion forming a right-angle posteriorly, entering some distance between the internasals; slightly longer than its distance from the frontal. Internasals broader than long slightly shorter than the prefrontals which are also wider than long. Frontal almost as wide as long, as long as its distance from the tip of the snout, nearly as long and nearly as wide as the parietals. Nearly three times as wide as the slender supraoculars. Nasals semi-divided. Six upper labials; the third and fourth entering the eye; one preocular; two postoculars; temporals one plus one. Three lower labials in contact with the anterior ekinshield which is larger but scarcely longer than the posterior.



Rhynchoelaps approximans sp. nov. x 5.

Seales in seventeen rows; 174 ventrals; 26 divided subcaudals; anal divided.

Remarks: Close to *R. campbelli* Kinghorn, 1929 but differing in the shape of the rostral as seen from above, the internasals shorter than the prefrontals; the broader parietals and the number of upper labials, 6 instead of 5, and in the absence of the intercalated shield which may be an abnormality in *R. campbelli*.

Colour: Clove-brown with 80 narrow cross bands less than a scale wide extending from the nape to the tip of the tail; head and nape darker. Snout pale, this colour extending backward half across the prefrontals, upper lip and entire under surface whitish.

Locality: A single specimen collected on Mueean Station (Lat. 23°30'S., Long. 120°E.) by Mr. D. W. H. Shilling, June, 1953.

Holotype: In the Western Australian Museum, R10768..

I am indebted to Miss O. Seymour for the illustration.

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